



# Department of Justice

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## **HOGSETT ANNOUNCES CHARGES AGAINST TWO FOR PRODUCING, POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

*U.S. Attorney says pair from Columbus allegedly victimized local teenager, toddler*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

COLUMBUS – U.S. Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett announced this afternoon charges against two Bartholomew County residents on charges that they produced sexually explicit videos of local minors and possessed child pornography. The victims were allegedly ages 4 and 16 when the abuse took place. The prosecution of Brock Boston, age 29, and Leslie Woods, age 26, represents more results in Hogsett's Operation Community Watch, a new effort which aims to reduce the abuse of Hoosier children through innovative investigative techniques and aggressive prosecution.

"Nothing is more important than the safety of Hoosier children, and cases such as this are a tragic reminder of the dangers that can lurk in our communities," Hogsett said. "That is why we have launched Operation Community Watch with our law enforcement partners, and we will continue our efforts to identify and prosecute anyone found to be engaging in such deplorable behavior."

Court documents allege that on December 30, 2011, both Boston and Woods coerced a local teenager to engage in sexually explicit conduct in order to produce videos of child pornography. These acts allegedly took place inside of Boston's residence in Columbus. In addition, Boston is alleged to have also sexually abused a 4 year old child at his residence one month earlier, again producing videos of child pornography.

Both men also face charges for allegedly possessing both videos and images of child pornography. File names allegedly found in their possession include descriptions of sexual abuse toward minor children, including toddlers. Woods also faces an additional count for failing to register a sex offender, as his criminal history includes a prior felony conviction for receiving and possessing child pornography in Illinois.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who is prosecuting the case for the government, both men face between 15-30 years in federal prison for each count of producing child pornography, as well as up to 10 years for possessing child pornography. Woods faces an additional 10 years for failing to register a sex offender. They also could face significant fines, years of supervised release, and lifetime registration as a sexual predator.

This indictment comes as Hogsett has announced a comprehensive crackdown on child exploitation in Indiana. Just last week, he launched "Operation Community Watch," which will allow prosecutors and investigators to use cutting-edge techniques to identify and charge people in Hoosier communities who are engaged in the receipt and trafficking of child pornography materials.

Specifically, Hogsett discussed a project in conjunction with Purdue University in which investigators have developed new and more effective on-site forensic examination software that allows law enforcement to quickly scan thousands of images and videos when a warrant is served. In this case, these efforts were facilitated by the U.S. Marshals Service, Carmel Police Department, Fishers Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, along with the Indiana State Police.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Hogsett pointed out that in the last Project Safe Childhood reporting year, the Office prosecuted 52 defendants, an increase of 37% over the prior year, and 49 defendants were convicted and sentenced. These are all-time records for the Office. The Office conviction rate for PSC cases was 100%, a level it has been at since 1991.

The greatest measure of the PSC program's impact, however, is the identification and rescue of child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. Over the last year, the U.S. Attorney's Office successfully identified more than 120 child victims, including minors in Indiana, numerous places in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, and other countries around the world.

Led nationally by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

An Information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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